

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**  
**DOWNLOADING A COMPUTER FILE FROM A SOURCE COMPUTER TO A**  
**TARGET COMPUTER**

5           A source computer 2 having a copy of a computer file that it is desired to download to  
a plurality of target computers issues broadcast messages via a computer network linked to  
those target computers. The broadcast messages indicate the availability of the computer file  
for download and include a download qualifying parameter. The download qualifying  
parameter is used by receiving target computers to determine whether or not they qualify to  
10 attempt a download from the source computer in response to the received broadcast message.  
Only those target computers that do qualify attempt a download. The source computer  
monitors how many target computers make a download attempt in response to a particular  
broadcast message and adjusts the download qualifying parameters in subsequent broadcast  
messages so that the target computers progressively download the new computer file without  
15 overloading the source computer.

[Figure 6]